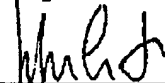


REMARKS

Claims 17-40 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph. The examiner has asserted that the wording in claims 17 and 29 regarding the gas control element being located between the support elements with the first and second guide surfaces of the gas control element facing towards the first and second support elements respectively constitutes new matter. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the new matter objection and the rejection under 35 USC 112, first paragraph. The drawings, which are part of the written description of the invention, show that the gas control element 5 is located between the support rollers 4 and that the gas control element 5 has curved surfaces that face towards the support rollers 4 respectively. The paragraph starting at page 5, line 17 of the specification points out that these curved surfaces permit an essentially unobstructed gas flow through the apertures formed between the support rollers and the control element. Thus, these curved surfaces are guide surfaces that guide the gas flow.

Applicant proposes that the paragraph starting at page 5, line 17 of the specification should be amended in the manner indicated above in order to describe in words those features that are illustrated in the drawings. Applicant respectfully requests that the amendments be entered. The amendments are necessary in order to overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112, first paragraph. The amendments were not previously proposed because applicant was, and remains, of the opinion that the features in question are illustrated in the drawings.

Respectfully submitted,




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